

BIDDING IN COMPETITION AND SLAM ZONE

Mr.LABA'S QUESTIONS :

1) holding ♠Kx ♥KQJxx ♦Jxx ♣Qxx both LHO, Ptnr PASS RHO bid 1S I bid 2H.. Kindly advice whether the bid is appropriate or not.

2) we play 2/1 GF. we were NV. In the first seat(S) i bid 1H holding ♠x ♥AKxxxx ♦xx ♣A109x. bidding was :

S	W	N	E
1H	P	2D	P
2H	P	3H	P
4H	P	P	P

we missed the slam. Holding only 11 HCP with partner suit singleton and NV situation i preferred to settle the contract in 4H. Pl. advice what should have been my action in this kind of situation.

3rd question is, in the 3rd. seat with both Vul., playing standard, holding

♠AKQJ10x ♥void ♦AQ10xx ♣xx

1) what should be the ideal bid ?

2) if any one bid 2C , in what extent he is wrong ? with moderate break of cards he needs only J of diamond from the ptnr to make a game in spade.

SRIDHAR'S VIEWS :

Question no 1:

1. Overcalling at 2 level at IMPs should be subject to certain basic considerations – (a) Safety in not conceding a penalty that exceeds the score the opponents are entitled to otherwise (b) your side should have reasonable chances of winning declaration as otherwise opponents would have obtained valuable information which they may profitably use while playing their dummy (c) partner should not be misled into bidding overboard , here your understanding with partner on what he normally expects for such overcall is crucial.
2. Here there are additional considerations , namely (a) your partner is a Passed hand , which reduces chances of benefits mentioned in point 1 above (b) They have bid spades which is a higher ranking suit .(c) your LHO is an unpassed hand , he can well hold a strong hand .(d) you have an aceless hand without great shape.
3. You have not mentioned the Vulnerability , but that is also a crucial consideration.
4. Now , in the context of above, there are 3 possibilities- (a) they may have a spade fit and you may have a heart fit , here they will simply outbid you and use the information provided by your bidding in play (b) they may not have a spade fit , but LHO may have hearts and Values , here they will collect a penalty that will turn into an unprofitable transaction for your side.(c) they

may neither have a fit nor length in hearts to Double you , in which case they will defend your contract , you may not have achieved anything substantial – for eg by passing you retain your chances of balancing later , say it goes (1S)-P-(1N)-P-(P)- now you still have a chance to balance.(d) overcall of 2H may be profitable if they declare 3N on your left and partner leads a H – this is the only benefit I see in overcalling.

Taking all above into consideration , I will advise a PASS .

Question no 2 :

In general 6-4 shape has a HUGE playing potential when you have found a fit with partner for your 6 card suit . Experts tend to bid higher than what is dictated by the HCP in such situations. Here your partner has (a) forced to game with a 2/1 bid (b) supported your suit (c) not jumped to game (4H) , JUMP to game in a GF auction is conventionally played as disinterest in SLAM , here your partner has bid 3H which should be encouraging. Even a minimum hand such as ♠JXX, ♥QXX, ♦AKXXX, ♣KX with him affords a play for 6H ; for 3H a hand such as ♠AXX, ♥QXX, ♦AKXXX, ♣KX is not ruled out, with this a GRAND slam makes

I think you should cue bid 4C over 3H and initiate a probe for slam in H , instead of closing the auction with 4H . There is a saying – “ with 6-4, bid more “ !

Question no 3 :

There are varying styles in opening 2C depending on combinations of shape and HCP. It needs prior discussion by partnership –opening 2C on shape hands with low HCP should not persuade partner to DOUBLE opponents in a contract unprofitably , hence the need for prior agreement on defensive potential of 2C opener .In the hand mentioned by you , I appreciate that an opening bid of 1S can be passed out and hence I have sympathy for opening 2C , but your partner should be aware that you may produce only 2 tricks in defense while the offensive potential is as high as 9 tricks when the trumps are SPADES or DIAMONDS . Arguments can be produced for both openings -2C and 1S ; I only wish to stress the need for prior agreement by Partnership.

My personal preference is opening of 1S for the following reasons :--

- (a) In this age of fierce balancing, it is unlikely to be passed out.
- (b) It conserves vital bidding space to show my 2 suitor of huge offensive potential; a 2C opening consumes too much room for showing the 2 suits, by the time I find a fit with partner the bidding is likely to be at 4 level. This will make slam probe difficult .

With best wishes,

Sridhar.